



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FULTON WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK EMBEZZLEMENT

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Fulton, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to embezzling more than \$22,000 from Central Trust Bank in Fulton.

Brenda W. Chambers, 45, of Fulton, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on Dec. 12, 2003.

Chambers was employed as a bank teller at Central Trust during the time of the embezzlement. On Dec. 26, 2002, auditors discovered a discrepancy in **Chambers'** cash drawer, Graves said. A complete cash audit of the Fulton branch bank revealed additional shortages.

Chambers admitted that she had been taking money from bank for over a year. **Chambers** concealed her theft by falsifying records, Graves said, and by taking cash from the vault to cover the shortage in cash teller drawer.

Under federal statutes, **Chambers** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow